

REMARKS

Claims 33-67 are pending in the present application. By this Response, claims 33, 50, and 66-67 are amended to even more clearly define the presently claimed invention. No new matter is added.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during a May 9, 2007, personal interview with Applicants' representative during which the outstanding objections and rejections of record were discussed. The remainder of Applicants' separate record of the substance of the personal interview is contained in the remarks below.

The Office Action objects to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for allegedly not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims.

As explained during the May 9, 2007, personal interview, the drawings do show the claimed features. For example, Figure 2 shows "the winding device 18, [where] the movable displaceable carrier drum 22 is pressed against the spool 20 with a higher pressing force F_1 [**a line force in the winding nip at a higher value in the region of the feed strip**] on the side of the feed strip than on the other side" (see paragraph [0052] on page 11

of the present specification).

Applicants also point out that one of ordinary skill in the art would know which side of the driving nip includes the operator side and the drive side, which in any case are inherently shown in the Figures (since the driving nip is shown in the Figures).

Applicants also point out that the various regions (including the primary and secondary regions) of the winding device are inherently shown since the winding device, and therefore the regions thereof, are shown in the Figures.

Additionally, Applicants point out that the force F_1 is greater in the region of the feed strip than the force F_2 in the remaining region.

As was agreed during the May 9, 2007, personal interview, Applicants do not believe that corrected Figures are necessary. However, if after consideration of Applicants' arguments, the Examiner continues to require revised drawings, Applicants request that the Examiner telephone Applicants' undersigned representative so that this issue can be quickly addressed.

In any case, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 33-67 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, for allegedly being indefinite. As is the case for the drawing objection discussed above, and as was discussed during the May 9, 2007, personal interview, Applicants do not agree with the asserted issues of indefiniteness.

In particular, Applicants do not see any problem with the claims that requires a portion of the feeding strip to be at a higher value than in a remaining region. In fact, the asserted understanding in the Office Action ("In so far as the claims are understood..." (page 3 of the Office Action) is correct, as one of ordinary skill in the art would readily recognize.

Regarding the terminology "drive side" and "operator side," one of ordinary skill in the art would readily understand what is meant by such phrasing.

Finally, regarding "primary region" and "secondary region," Applicants do not believe that there is any problem with defining such regions for the purpose of claim drafting, particularly as one of ordinary skill in the art would readily understand what is meant by such phrasing.

Regarding claim 47, which depends from claim 43, defining the spool as being movable and claim 46, which also depends from claim 43,

defining the spool as stationary, it appears that the Office Action misconstrues claim 47 to depend from claim 46. Applicants respectfully note that the claims refer to different embodiments of the invention and are thus not contradictory.

Regarding claims 54, 57, and 67, Applicants point out that, as clearly explained in the present specification, for example in paragraph [0031], the “spool can be moved away, for example, via an electric drive, for example a servomotor or the like.”

For at least the above reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 33-67 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, are respectfully requested.

The Office Action also rejects claims 33-67 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by DE 1985257 (using U.S. Patent No. 6,402,082 as an equivalent thereof). This rejection is traversed, particularly as it may apply to the amended claims.

Applicants note the following:

- a) the present method claims 33-49 and 66 all require, inter alia, **“setting** a line force in the winding region at a higher value in the

region of the feed strip than in the remaining region..." (see claims 33 and 66, emphasis added);

- b) the present product claims ["winding device"] 50-65 and 67 all require, inter alia, "the line force in the winding nip is set to a higher value in the region of the feed strip than in the remaining region of the winding nip" (see claims 50 and 67, emphasis added);
- c) the claims have been amended to make even more clear that the higher value of the line force is maintained during transfer of the feed strip; and
- d) the limitations discussed in a), b), and c) above are missing from DE 1985257.

In particular, the Office Action asserts that, with regard to DE 1985257, "pressing device 56...can apply a greater force on one edge region of the winding nip than in another lateral edge region..." (see the last paragraph on page 4 of the Office Action).

However, the present claims do not include a limitation that something can apply a higher value of force. Rather, the present claims require that a line force is set to a higher value and maintained at such

higher force. It is Applicants' understanding that DE 1985257 does not teach (or suggest) **setting** such a higher value of force, as would be required to meet the limitations of the present claims.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that present claims 33-67 are clearly not anticipated by DE 1985257. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 33-67 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) are respectfully requested.

The Office Action also rejects claims 33-67 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by DE 19939506 (using U.S. Patent No. 6,536705 as an equivalent thereof). This rejection is traversed, particularly as it may apply to the amended claims.

Applicants note the following:

- a) the present method claims 33-49 and 66 all require, inter alia, **"setting"** a line force in the winding region at a higher value in the region of the feed strip than in the remaining region..." (see claims 33 and 66, emphasis added);
- b) the present product claims ["winding device"] 50-65 and 67 all require, inter alia, "the line force in the winding nip **is set** to a

higher value in the region of the feed strip than in the remaining region of the winding nip” (see claims 50 and 67, emphasis added);

- c) the claims have been amended to make even more clear that the higher value of the line force is maintained during transfer of the feed strip; and
- d) that the limitations discussed in a), b), and c) above are missing from DE 19939506.

In particular, with regard to DE 19939506, the Office Action asserts that “pressing device 56...can apply a greater force on one edge region of the winding nip than in another lateral edge region...” (see the second paragraph on page 5 of the Office Action).

However, the present claims do not include a limitation that something can apply a higher value of force. Rather, the present claims require that a line force is set to a higher value. It is Applicants’ understanding that DE 19939506 does not teach (or suggest) setting such a higher value of force, as would be required to meet the limitations of the present claims.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that present claims 33-67 are clearly not anticipated by DE 19939506. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 33-67 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) are respectfully requested.

The Office Action also rejects claims 33-67 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kayser et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,171,107). This rejection is traversed, particularly as it may apply to the amended claims.

Applicants note the following:

- a) the present method claims 33-49 and 66 all require, inter alia, **“setting** a line force in the winding region at a higher value in the region of the feed strip than in the remaining region...” (see claims 33 and 66, emphasis added);
- b) the present product claims [“winding device”] 50-65 and 67 all require, inter alia, “the line force in the winding nip **is set** to a higher value in the region of the feed strip than in the remaining region of the winding nip” (see claims 50 and 67, emphasis added);

- c) the claims have been amended to make even more clear that the higher value of the line force is maintained during transfer of the feed strip; and
- d) that the limitations discussed in a), b) and c) above are missing from Kayser et al.

In particular, with regard to Kayser et al., the Office Action asserts that "pivot arms 3...can apply a greater force on one edge region of the winding nip than in another lateral edge region..." (see the fourth paragraph on page 5 of the Office Action).

However, the present claims do not include a limitation that something can apply a higher value of force. Rather, the present claims require that a line force is set to a higher value. It is our understanding that Kayser et al. does not teach (or suggest) setting such a higher value of force, as would be required to meet the limitations of the present claims.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that present claims 33-67 are clearly not anticipated by Kayser et al. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 33-67 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) are respectfully requested.

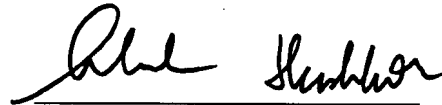
P23211.A09
Appl. No. 10/522,559
Amdt. Dated June 12, 2007
Reply to Office action of March 20, 2007

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be beneficial in order to place this application in even better condition for examination and allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representatives at the telephone number listed below. Favorable consideration and prompt examination and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.

The Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees necessary to preserve the pendency of this application, or credit any overpayment to deposit account No. 50-2929, referencing Docket No. P23211.

Respectfully submitted,

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June 12, 2007

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P23211.A09 AH/RKC